

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending and at issue. Claims 1 and 13 are objected to for informalities. Claims 1-4 are rejected as being obvious over Miyagawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,533,101) in view of De Ruijter et al. (U.S. Publication 2005/0036568). Claims 5 and 6 are rejected as being obvious over Miyagawa and De Ruijter et al. in further view of Silen et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0045442). Claims 7-11 are rejected as being obvious over Miyagawa and De Ruijter et al. in further view of Jarrett (U.S. Patent No. 6,950,674). Claims 12-15 are rejected as obvious over Miyagawa and De Ruijter et al. in further view of Jarrett et al. and Silen et al. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the following comments.

Claim 1 is amended to remove the language “on the one hand” and “on the other hand,” to correct any ambiguity and to further correct typographical errors. Applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for examination.

Claim 7 is amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 13 is amended to depend on claim 7, thus resolving any antecedent issues. Applicants submit that claim 13 is in condition for examination.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-4 as obvious over any combination of Miyagawa and De Ruijter et al. with Silen et al. and Jarrett. As provided in MPEP § 2142, “[t]o establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference, or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or

suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on Applicants' disclosure." *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20; USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991); see also MPEP § 2143-2143.03 for decisions pertinent to each criteria. Each of the claims recite, in part, an interface circuit that receives high frequency periodic signals on a supply line and a low pass filter that filters high frequency periodic signals received from the supply line between the interface circuit and at least a portion of the electronic circuits of the central base. Neither Miyagawa nor De Ruijter et al. discloses a low pass filter that filters high frequency periodic signals received from a supply line. Thus, no combination of Miyagawa and De Ruijter et al. can render the pending claims obvious.

While Miyagawa discloses a band pass filter as part of a radio frequency (RF) transceiver circuit, this band pass filter is not adapted to filter high frequency periodic signals received from a supply line. Instead, the RF circuit 71 of Miyagawa is part of a wireless transceiver that does not operate to filter any high frequency periodic signal received from the power supply 73 and, in fact, could not operate to filter any signal received from the supply line because it is not directly connected to the supply line. Additionally, while De Ruijter et al. discloses a data slicer circuit having a low pass filter, De Ruijter et al. fails to disclose a low pass filter between an interface circuit and other circuits of a central base that filters high frequency periodic signals received from a supply line. Because no combination of Miyagawa and De Ruijter et al. discloses a low pass filter adapted to filter high frequency periodic signals received from a supply line, no combination of Miyagawa and De Reijter et al. can render the pending claims obvious.

Furthermore, neither Miyagawa nor De Ruijter et al. provides any motivation or suggestion to combine or modify their teachings to result in the claimed combination. As

known to those skilled in the art, a bandpass filter in an RF circuit, as taught by Miyagawa, is used to isolate a particular carrier signal (within a band) received or transmitted via the RF circuit, not to filter out high frequency periodic signals from a supply line (operating at a low frequency). In fact, as mentioned above, Miyagawa's band pass filter, even if modified to be a low pass filter, is not positioned within the Miyagawa device to effect any high frequency signal from a supply line, nor does Miyagawa, or any other reference, teach that a low pass filter should be positioned in this manner. Thus, Miyagawa fails to disclose any suggestion that its band pass filter, as specifically referenced by the office action, could or should be modified to filter high frequency periodic signals received from a supply line.

Moreover, while De Ruijter et al. discloses a low pass filter, merely citing references that teach an aspect of the claimed combination does not make the claimed combination obvious. See MPEP 2143.01 (IV) ("A statement that modifications of the prior art to meet the claimed invention would have been 'well within the ordinary skill of the art at the time the claimed invention was made' because the references relied upon teach that all aspects of the claimed invention were individually known in the art is not sufficient to establish a prima facie case of obviousness without some objective reason to combine"). In fact, De Ruijter et al. specifically discloses using a low pass filter to extract a DC value from a received data signal, where the DC value carries useful information. The claimed system, on the other hand, uses the low pass filter to block high frequency periodic signals from a power supply feed, where the high frequency periodic signals contain messaging information. Thus, De Ruijter et al. actually teaches the opposite use of a low pass filter than the claimed central base. In other words, the claimed device uses a low pass filter to block out an information carrying signal (thereby, preventing interference on a steady power supply), while De Ruijter discloses using a low pass filter to extract an information carrying signal. It follows,

therefore, that neither Miyagawa nor De Ruijter et al. provide the required motivation or suggestion combine or modify their teachings to result in the claimed combination, and in fact, De Ruijter et al. actually teaches away from the claimed combination.

Moreover, while the office action states that the motivation for modifying Miyagawa or De Ruijter et al. is “to enhance the use of a cordless telephone so that there is good noise suppression and a short settling time,” the office action fails to show support for this motivation of noise suppression and short settling time in any of the cited references. Therefore, Applicants are left to assume that this suggestion is obtained from the Applicants very disclosure and constitutes improper hindsight. See MPEP § 2141(II)(C).

Applicants further traverse the rejection of claim 4 as obvious over Miyagawa and De Ruijter et al. Claim 4 recites that the electronic central unit controls an interface circuit connected to a supply line via a serial interface controller. Miyagawa simply does not disclose, in any manner, a serial interface controller. The office action relies on Miyagawa to disclose a transceiver 71 (of figure 2) that is connected in series with a controller 51. Even if the transceiver 71 of Miyagawa is considered an interface (which Applicants do not submit that it is) coupled to a supply line 13 and connected to the controller 51 (which the office action asserts to be the claimed electronic control unit), Miyagawa still fails to disclose a serial interface controller. Moreover, the office action appears to reason that because the transceiver 71 is connected in series with the controller 51, that this fact supports the existence of a serial interface controller. As known to those skilled in the art, a serial interface controller provides a serial data output that is not necessarily related to the physical connection between two components, as serial data may be transmitted between two components in any number of physical configurations. The office action appears to mistake a serial electrical connection for transmitting a serial data stream. Miyagawa provides no

indication that any of its components provides a serial data stream and thus, fails to disclose or teach a serial interface controller, as recited by pending claim 4.

Applicants further traverse the rejection of claims 5 and 6 as obvious over Miyagawa and De Ruijter et al. in further view of Silen et al. Each of pending claims 5 and 6 additionally recite, in part, a central base that receives an alphanumeric message from a public telecommunication network, recognizes that the received alphanumeric message is intended for an external interface module and generates a message corresponding to the alphanumeric message on a supply line using an interface circuit. None of Miyagawa, De Ruijter et al., and Silen et al. discloses a central base unit receiving an alphanumeric message from a public telecommunication network and generating a message corresponding to the received alphanumeric message on a supply line when the central base recognizes that the received alphanumeric message is intended for an external interface module. Therefore, no combination of Miyagawa, De Ruijter et al, and Silen et al. can render pending claims 5 and 6 obvious.

The office action acknowledges that neither Miyagawa and De Ruijter et al. discloses using alphanumeric messages. Instead, the office action relies on Silen et al. to remedy the deficiency. However, while Silen et al. discloses a network 1 that includes a command sequence programming interface 6 and a compiler 7 that receives an SMS control request message and generates a control code for transmission to a device, Silen et al. does not disclose the central base as recited by pending claims 5 and 6. Specifically, Silen et al. does not disclose a single device containing an electronic central unit that generates a message on a supply line for an external interface module when the electronic central unit recognizes that an alphanumeric message from a public telecommunication network received at the electronic central unit is intended for an external interface module. As known by those

skilled in the art, a network is comprised of a plurality of separate devices and a plurality of connections between those devices. Claims 5 and 6 specifically recite a single device containing an electronic control unit that recognizes an alphanumeric message received from a telephone network and generates a corresponding message on a supply line to an external interface module. Silen et al., on the other hand, discloses a network coupled to a programming interface 6 for receiving a control request from the network and a compiler 7 for translating the control request received by the interface 6 into a control code for transmission back to the network to a network device. Because none of Miyagawa, De Ruijter et al., and Silen et al. discloses a central base unit that generates a message on a supply line corresponding to an alphanumeric message from a telecommunication network when the central base recognizes that the message is intended for an external interface module, none of Miyagawa, De Ruijter et al., and Silen et al. can render claims 5 and 6 obvious.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 7-11 as obvious over Miyagawa, De Ruijter et al., and Jarrett. Each of claims 7-11 discloses an external interface module having an interface circuit that is adapted to communicate with an interface circuit of a central base by sending and receiving messages on a supply line. None of Miyagawa, De Ruijter et al., and Jarrett discloses an interface circuit of an external interface module that communicates with an interface circuit of a central base via a supply line. Therefore, no combination of Miyagawa, De Ruijter et al., and Jarrett can render pending claims 7-11 obvious.

The office action acknowledges that neither Miyagawa nor De Ruijter et al. discloses the external interface module of claim 7-11, and instead relies on Jarrett to remedy the deficiency. However, Jarrett also fails to disclose any external interface module circuit that

communicates with a central base interface circuit over a supply line. Instead, Jarrett discloses a public switched telephone network (PSTN) interface that enables a mobile phone to be connected to a telecommunication network (i.e., the PSTN). As known to those skilled in the art, a PSTN is different from a power supply line, as recited by the pending claims. Jarrett simply fails to disclose a central base and an interface module external to the central base that communicate with each other over a power supply line. It follows, therefore, that none of Miyagawa, De Ruijter et al., and Jarrett can render pending claims 7-11 obvious.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 12-15 as obvious over Miyagawa and De Ruijter et al. in further view of Silen et al. Because claims 12-15 depend from claim 7, Applicants submit that claims 12-15 are allowable for the same reasons discussed above. However, Applicants further traverse the rejection of claims 12-15 as obvious over Miyagawa, De Ruijter et al, and Silen et al. The office action fails to provide a proper motivation to combine or modify the references to result in the claimed combination. The office action asserts that Miyagawa, De Ruijter et al, and Silen et al. suggest combining or modifying their teachings to “enhance the use of the terminating set, by allowing the DTMF receiver and generator to be used in combination with a network compiler,” However, the office action fails to disclose where this stated motivation is derived from, as this benefit is not explicitly nor implicitly taught by any of the references. Applicants remind the office that it is improper to collect references that teach portions of the recited claims and then simply state that it is obvious to combine the teachings because the combination would produce a benefit that, in this case, could only be derived from the Applicants’ disclosure. This is hindsight reasoning and is improper. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

Applicants have added new claim 16 which recites similar elements to the claims described above and that Applicants' submit are not taught by the cited references. Specifically, new claim 16 recites, in part, a central base and electronic central unit, an interface connected to the electronic central unit and supply line, and a low pass filter between the interface circuit and other circuits of the central base and adapted to filter the high frequency periodic signals from the supply line, where the central unit is adapted to determine whether an incoming alphanumeric message is intended for an external device and generate a message corresponding to the alphanumeric message on the supply line using the interface circuit. As discussed above, none of the cited references discloses or teaches a low pass filter for filtering a high frequency periodic signal from a supply line between an interface circuit connected to the supply line and other circuits of a central base. Furthermore, none of the cited references discloses or teaches a single central base device that includes an electronic central unit that generates a message corresponding to a received alphanumeric message from a public telecommunication network on a supply line using an interface. Therefore, none of the cited references can anticipated or render obvious new claim 16.

CONCLUSION

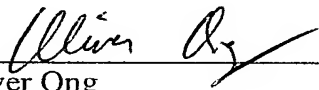
Applicants submit that this case is in a condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of rejected claims 1-16.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312-474-6300

By:



Oliver Ong
Registration No. 58, 456
Attorney for Applicants

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